

DEQ presents DERA award to the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has announced its intention to award a grant from the 2011 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act solicitation to the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition for their work on a Truck Stop Electrification project in Greenwood, Louisiana.

The Truck Stop Electrification systems are a part of EPA's Verified Idle Reduction Technologies, which allow drivers of Class 8 long haul trucks and tractor trailers to eliminate idling while resting at truck stops. The Coalition is proposing to manage the installation of 36 HVAC-equipped spaces at the Flying J in Greenwood at exit 3 of Interstate 20 in Caddo Parish. The spaces would provide heat, air conditioning, shore power plug-ins, 110 VAC power, basic TV, phone and Internet capabilities. The Coalition estimates that this project will save at least 105,120 gallons of diesel fuel and reduced diesel emissions by 1,185 tons per year.

The DERA 2011 Solicitation closed on December 1st, with the GBR Clean Cities Coalition submitting the sole application.

The total project cost is estimated at \$408,084. The Coalition is requesting 49 percent funding (or \$206,633) while Idle Air, the contractor, will cost-share the remaining \$207,451. The request for DERA 2011 funding also includes \$20,000 for a marketing campaign to promote the TSE system. This campaign will supply 500 drivers with a complementary window adapter; offer a free 10 hour visit to the first 500 customers; and train and educate customers through advertising.

According to the 2011 Solicitation, DEQ will announce the award winners by Jan. 1, 2012. Should DEQ decide to fund the project, an announcement will be posted on the DEQ Web site, followed by a notification to the Coalition that their proposal has been recommended for the award. This notification does not grant authorization to commence work. The Coalition would then need to submit a written acceptance letter, upon which DEQ will draft a contract to be submitted for signature and review by the Department of Administration's Office of Contractual Review.